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Title: Regarding functioning of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA).

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. At the outset, I would like to congratulate all my fellow women MPs and all the women across the globe and India on this International Women's Day. We will all take up the cause to be bold and be champion for a change in the country.

Today, I rise to talk about the important issue of the functioning of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) functioning in the tribal area of Andhra Pradesh. My constituency is Araku. In Araku, we have four ITDAs that are operating in the constituency. These ITDAs are formed under the Societies Registration Act of 1869 and they were formed by the AP Government in 1975. Crores of rupees are being spent by the Union Government and the State Government through these agencies. These agencies are headed by the IAS officers from the State Government. All the officers come to this organization from different departments. They are lacking accountability towards the money which has been given by the Union Government. They also go back to their own Departments. Only two public representatives are a part of this Governing Body which is meeting or not meeting even for one year sometimes. These funds are being diverted for various purposes. The Sub-Plan grants are given by the Union Government. Grants are given under the NREGS; and grants are given under the PMGSY. But they are lacking accountability towards these funds.

I would urge upon the Union Government to form an Inquiry Committee into the functioning of these agencies. I would say that public representatives should also be made a part of this Inquiry team or Investigation team to look into the functioning and the expenditure incurred by the Tribal welfare agencies.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Jitendra Chaudhury,

Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha.